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ABSTRACT

Part of an international series of amply illustrated, colorful, small size books for children ages 5 to 10, this volume presents stories about different aspects of music. The text explains how to listen to music, the main families of musical instruments, the importance of musical instruments in other cultures, and how a violin is constructed. Each segment works to create an interest in the multiple aspects of music. The book concludes with a discussion about jazz and a look at musical oddities. (NL)

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Music!

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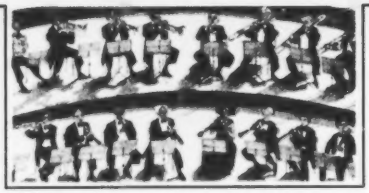

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Music!

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Listen!
Water rushing, leaves rustling, birds singing... nature is full of sounds! Some are loud and strong, others soft and sweet. You can be a musician too: whistle! sing! shout! Hit a coconut with a wooden spoon. Bang on some tin cans! A hollow reed makes music. So does a bow made of wood and string, with an empty can tied on. Invent your own instruments.

There are three main families of instruments: percussion, string, and wind.
Do you have a xylophone? Tap each bar to make a different sound.
The xylophone is a percussion instrument.

It is a fun way to learn the notes of the scale: do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do. Then you can play a song!
Not all percussion instruments produce distinct notes.
Some, like the big bass drum, only make loud, heavy thuds.

These 17th-century timpani could be tuned higher or lower by tightening the skin on top.

Snare drum, triangle, cymbals, gong, and vibraphone...these are just some members of the percussion family.

The first musical instruments were probably from the percussion family. They set the beat, but also add new sound textures.

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Shake the maracas... tap the claves... scrape the güiro... click the castanets! These instruments from Spain and Latin America add excitement to music.

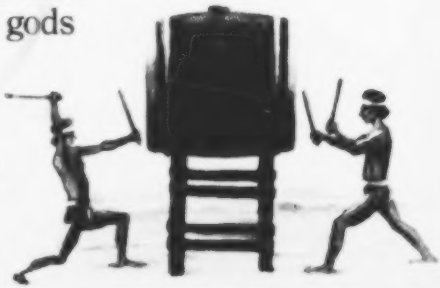
Percussion around the world

Drums set a beat or a mood. In the Central African nation of Burundi, these log-drummers announce the planting season. Then they put their drums away until the following year.

The balafon is a West African xylophone used to accompany dancers.

The Ko drum plays an important role in Chinese theater, where drumbeats have special meanings.

In Japan, Kodos are both athletes and musicians. According to legend, gods are trapped inside a giant drum. If the Kodos hit the drum hard enough, the gods will be set free. Then there will be rain and sun upon the earth.



The violin is the best known member of the string family. A wooden bow, strung with horsehair, is drawn across the violin's strings to produce sounds.

The crwth (krôôth) was a bowed lyre played in England and Wales.

Minstrels played this instrument in the Middle Ages.

The first violin was made in the mid-1500's. Its parents were the viols. Some viols were held on the arm. Others, like the viola da gamba, were held between the knees, as this French musician is doing. Viols were played before rich lords, while the violin was used for common dancing. Today the violin has the lead part in an orchestra.

Viola da gamba

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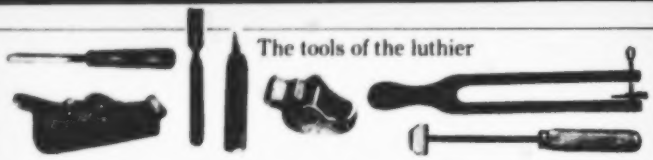
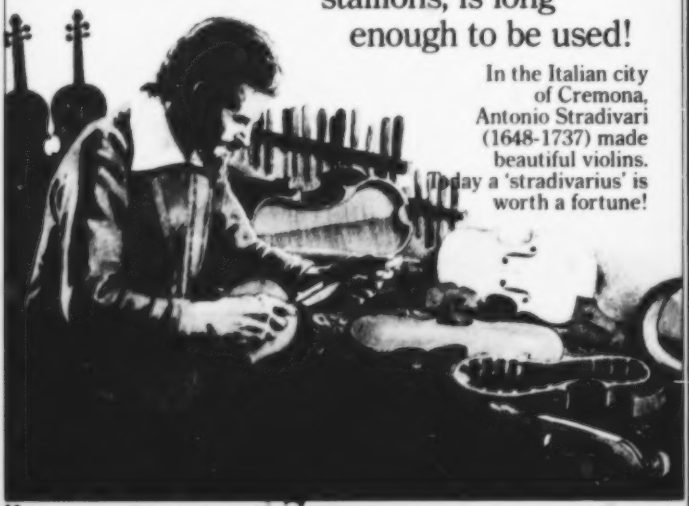
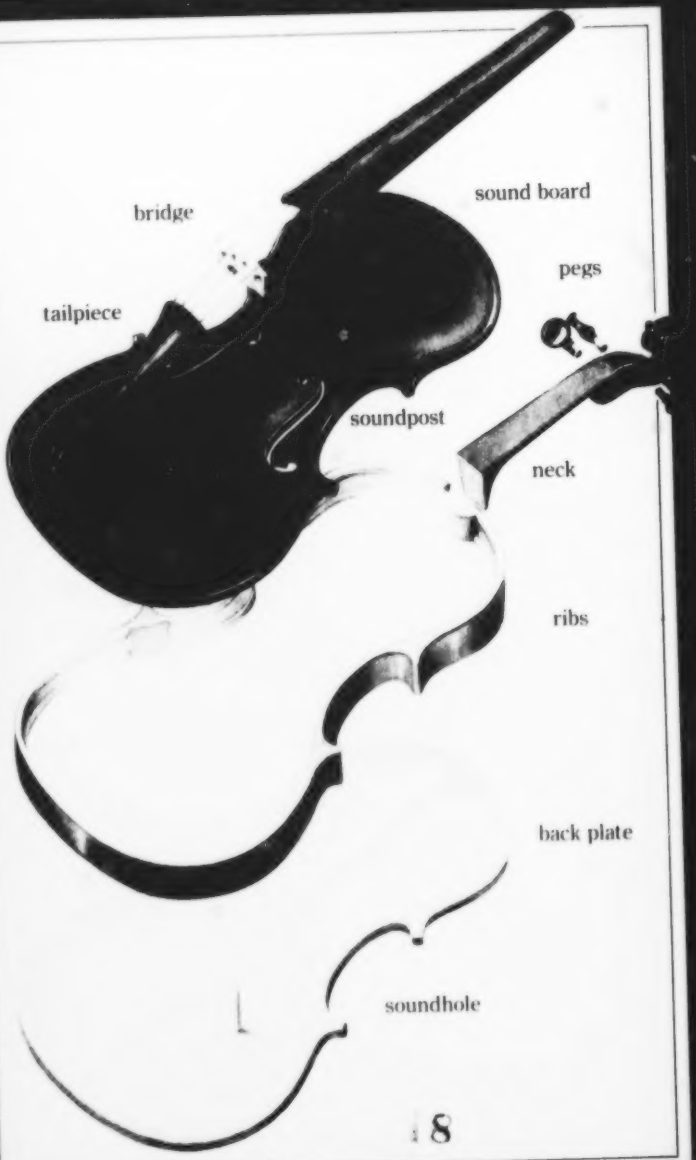


The tools of the luthier

This violin may look simple, but violin-making is an art that takes skill and patience. The **luthier** cuts out, shapes, glues, drills, sands, assembles and varnishes over 70 pieces of fine woods to make a violin. Then he strings it with four strings of steel-wound gut. The **bow-maker** makes a bow by attaching about 150 horsehair threads to a wooden stick. Only the tail hair, from white Canadian or Siberian stallions, is long enough to be used!



In the Italian city of Cremona, Antonio Stradivari (1648-1737) made beautiful violins. Today a 'stradivarius' is worth a fortune!


bridge
sound board
pegs
tailpiece
soundpost
neck
ribs
back plate
soundhole

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The harp has 46 strings. Why isn't it part of the string family?
Because it is not played with a bow!

The string family:

violin

viola

cello

bass

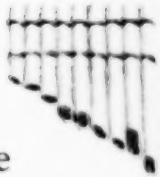
A chamber ensemble: the string quartet usually has 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, but no bass.

Shorter strings, higher sounds.
The violin, with its short thin strings, produces high, sweet sounds.
The longer and thicker the string, the deeper its sound.
With its long, fat strings the bass can sound like a thunderstorm!

Dancing-masters had tiny violins they could carry in their coat pockets!

Pipes to blow into: those are the wind instruments. Prehistoric man made flutes from bones.

bone flute (1,000 BC)



Panpipes are made of hollow reeds which are cut and tied together.

Then, in China, panpipes made of different-sized reeds appeared. The shortest reed has the highest sound; the longest has the lowest. Wind instruments are divided into two groups: woodwinds and brass.

Two early instruments: the sackbut, a brass, and the shawm, a woodwind.

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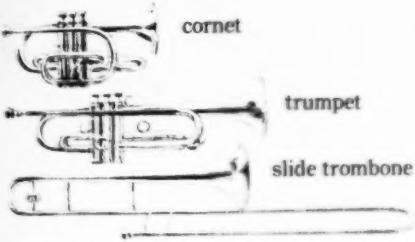
The brass family is loud and clear! Brass bands are seen in most parades. The army uses bugles because they can be heard from far away.

French horn



cornet

trumpet

slide trombone

A New Orleans street band

Moving a trombone's **slide**, or a trumpet's **valves**, lets a musician play different notes. The movement makes the air column inside the horn longer or shorter. A player can also stretch his lips to change the sound.

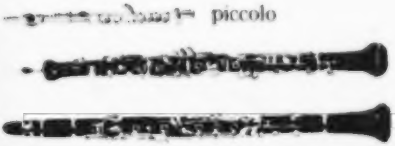
Tuba

To play a recorder, you blow into the hole at the top end.

Woodwinds are not all made of wood. But they are all pipes with holes in them, with one hole to blow into. The **recorder** is a woodwind that is not hard to learn to play.

To play a flute, you blow air across the top of the hole.

Use your fingers to cover all the holes: when you blow into it, you will hear a low sound. Now take your fingers away, one by one. The column of air gets shorter, the sound is higher.



piccolo

oboe

clarinet

bassoon

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upright piano

Mozart was a child prodigy—he played before royalty at the age of six. He became one of the greatest composers who ever lived.

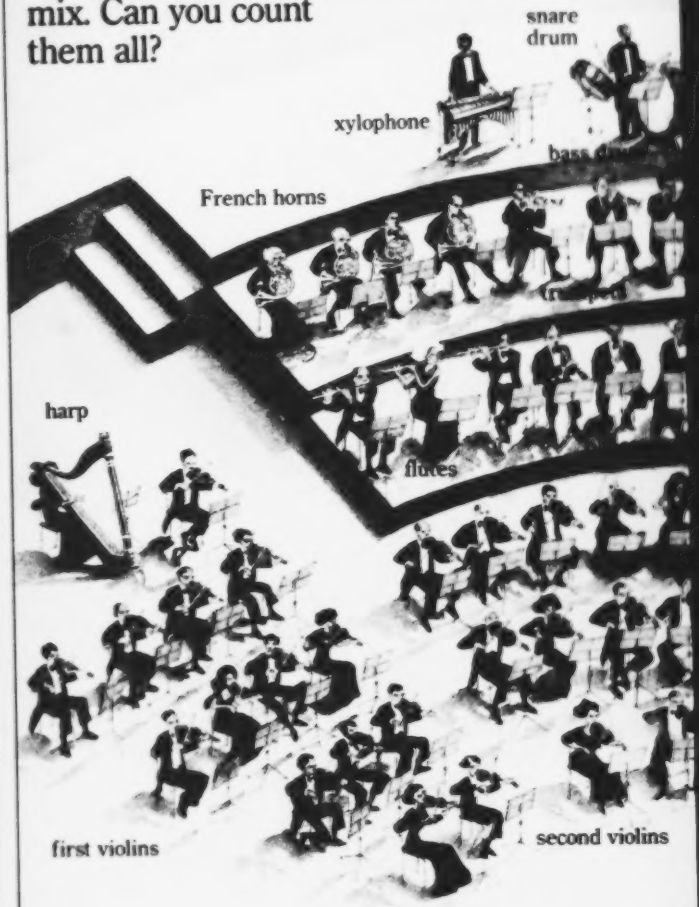
Grand piano. The concert grand is nine feet long.

The piano can play sweet melodies, crashing chords, and everything in between!

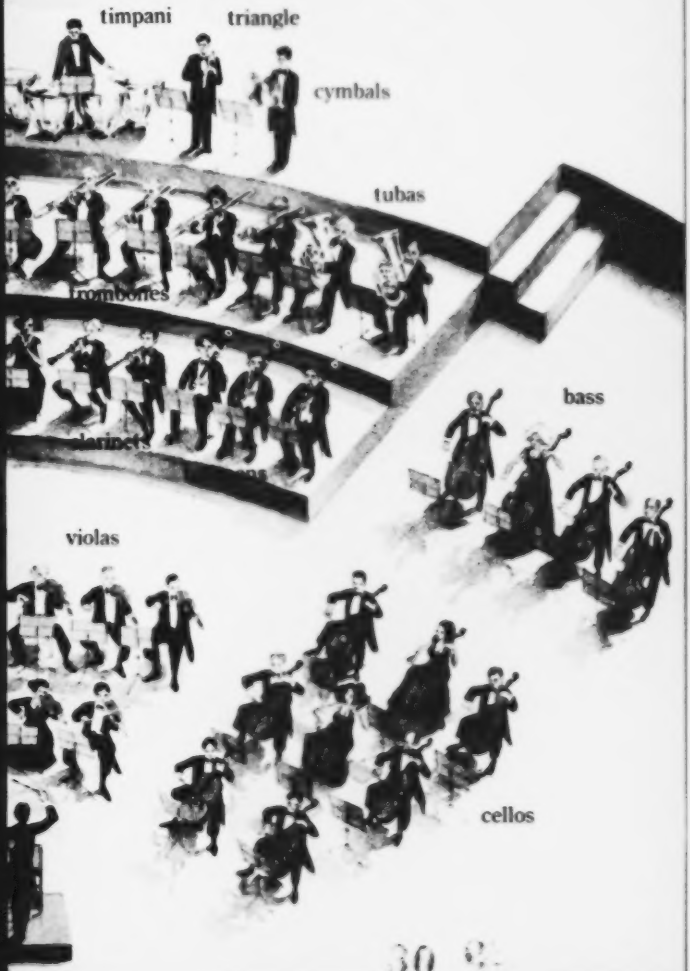
How does it work?

When you press a **key**, it causes a felt hammer to hit strings, and you hear the note. The pedals soften or hold the sound. With seven **octaves**, or levels, you can make a wide range of sounds. Learning to play an instrument with 88 keys is, indeed, hard.

Here is the orchestra! It brings together strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion…all in a magical mix. Can you count them all?



The conductor sets the mood of a piece and helps the musicians play together.



There are many kinds of orchestras in other countries. Eastern and Western musicians borrow from each other.

In Japan, Gagaku, or court music, is played with very old instruments. Here are the koto, oboe, drum and flute. It is said that the koto sounds like a dragon on the beach, talking to the waves...

a gamelan

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The gamelan is a Balinese orchestra. It plays for singing, dancing and puppet shows. There are over 2,000 gamelans on the island of Bali! The instruments shown are the gong-chimes and the xylophone.

This trio from India is made up of a sitar (right), a tambura (center), and a tabla, or pair of tuned drums.
Indian music may sound odd or funny to you. But the music is very complex. To master the **rhythms** takes many years of study.

Jazz was born in New Orleans, around the 1900's. It was a meeting, a joining, of African rhythms and Western instruments.
Jazz is called the voice and soul of the black experience in America.
When playing, the musicians pick a **theme** and **improvise** on it.

An electric guitar—the main instrument of rock 'n' roll music.

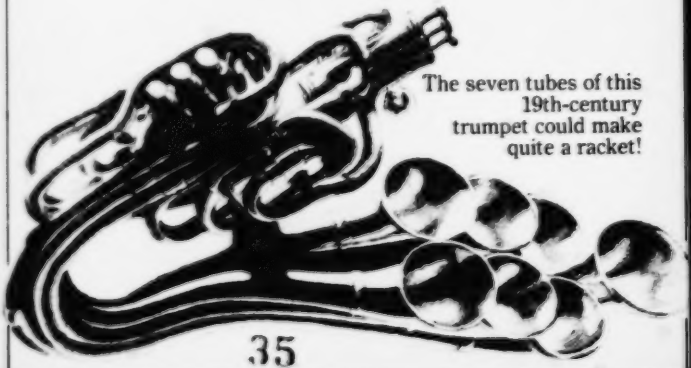
New sounds, new music!

With electronic instruments the possibilities for new sounds are endless. Mixers and amplifiers replace valves and air.

Musical oddities

In both modern and ancient times, musicians have tried to improve on their instruments, or invent new ones. Dizzy Gillespie, the jazz musician, is well-known for the odd angle of his trumpet's tube.

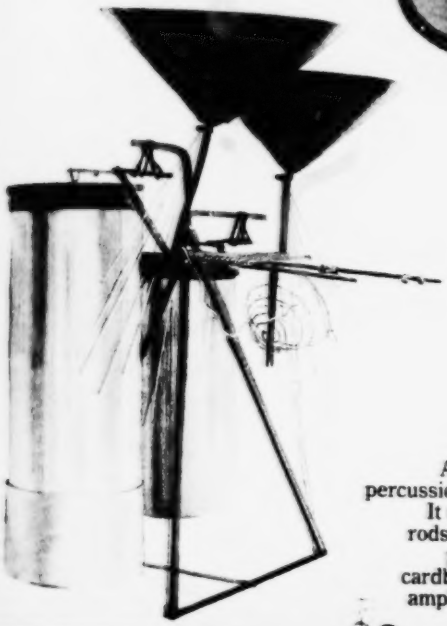
A 17th-century French serpent. It was curved to make the fingering easier.



The seven tubes of this 19th-century trumpet could make quite a racket!

The harp-lyre was invented in 1827. It is not a harp, but a large guitar with three necks.

Modern composers use all kinds of common objects in their music. Typewriters, cow bells and chains are used to make sounds... even car horns and old wash boards.



A 20th-century percussion instrument. It uses weighted rods to change the pitch. The two cardboard 'funnels' amplify the sound.

Oh, me name is MacNamara,
I'm the leader of the band.
Although we're few in number
we're the finest in the land.

We play at wakes and weddings
and very fancy balls,
and when we play at funerals
we play the March from Saul.

Oh, the drums go banging, the
cymbals clanging, and the horns
they blaze away.
McCarthy pumps the old bassoon
while I the pipes do play.

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Books of Discovery for children five through ten...

Young Discovery Library is an international undertaking — the series is now published in nine countries. It is the world's first pocket encyclopedia for children, 120 titles will be published.

Each title in the series is an education on the subject covered: a collaboration among the author, the illustrator, an advisory group of elementary school teachers and an academic specialist on the subject.

The goal is to respond to the endless curiosity of children, to fascinate and educate.

Music!
illustrated by Claude and Denise Millet,
is No. 25 in a series of books of
discovery for children five years
old and upwards.

- **What are the three families of instruments?**
- **What were the first woodwinds made of?**
- **What are the parts of the violin?**

- **How do the musicians sit in an orchestra?**
- **What does the conductor do?**
- **What are some instruments from around the world?**

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